

greater adhesion between surface additives and toner particles, thereby improving toner characteristics such as flowability.

IN THE CLAIMS:

1) (Amended) An improved blending tool for rotation upon a blending machine shaft, such tool comprising:

(a) a shank having a long axis, at least one end, and an end region proximate to the end; and

(b) a riser member fixedly mounted during rotation at the end region of the shank, said riser member having an outside surface with a forward region, wherein the forward region is angled outward from the plane perpendicular to the long axis of the shank at an angle between 10 and 16 degrees.

2) (Amended) The improved tool of **Claim 1**, wherein the angle relative to the plane perpendicular to the long axis of the shank is between 14 and 15.5 degrees.

3) (Amended) The improved tool of **Claim 1**, wherein the entire outside surface of the riser member is angled outward from the plane perpendicular to the long axis of the shank at an angle between 10 and 16 degrees.

13) (Amended) The improved blending tool of **Claim 1**, wherein:

(a) the improved blending tool is mounted inside a blending [vessel] chamber having a wall;

(b) the riser member has a leading edge; and

(c) the leading edge of the riser member is less than 6 millimeters from the wall of the blending [vessel] chamber.

17) (Amended) The improved blending tool of **Claim 14**, wherein:

- (a) the improved blending tool is mounted inside a blending [vessel] chamber having a wall;
- (b) the riser member has a leading edge; and
- (c) at least a portion of the leading edge is positioned within millimeters from the wall of the blending [vessel] chamber.

18) (Amended) A blending machine, comprising:

- (a) a [vessel] chamber for holding a media to be blended;
- (b) a blending tool mounted inside the [vessel] chamber, said blending tool comprising both (i) a shank having a long axis, at least one end, and an end region proximate to the end and (ii) a riser member fixedly mounted during rotation at the end region of the shank, said riser member having an outside surface with a forward region, wherein the forward region is angled outward from the long axis at an angle between 10 and 16 degrees; and
- (c) a rotatable drive shaft, connected to the blending tool inside of the vessel, for transmitting rotational motion to the blending tool.

Claims 32 and 33 are new.